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“INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE.” VOL. XVI. HARRISBURG, PA., MONDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 30, 1861. NO. 95

The Telegraph

The Mason and Slidell Case.

LETTERS OF THE ENGLISH MINISTER AND SECRETARY SEWARD.

Below will be found the correspondence between the British Minister and Secretary Seward from which it may be inferred that the difficulty between this country and England are amicably settled.

EARL RUSSELL TO LORD LYONS.

My Lord—Intelligence of a very grave nature has reached Her Majesty's Government: This intelligence was conveyed officially to the knowledge of the Admiralty by Commander Williams, agent for mails on board the contract steamer Trent.

but he said he would not go unless forcibly compelled likewise, and this demand was not insisted upon. Upon this statement Earl Russell remarks that it thus appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from on board a British vessel, the ship of a neutral power, while that vessel was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage, an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag and a violation of international law.

Trent, were actually conveyed a delivery to the embassies of the insurrectionist. Although it is not essential, yet it is proposed, as I do not know upon information, and of a fair trial of the accusation against him. The Trent, including the Commander Wilkes, had knowledge of the assumed facts of the purpose of the persons before me, and they embarked on that vessel.

and reaching the destined scene of his injurious service. But the other hand, the person captured may be innocent—that he may not be. He, therefore, has a right to a fair trial of the accusation against him. The Trent, including the Commander Wilkes, is bound to protect him if he is not contraband, and is therefore entitled to be satisfied upon that important question. The faith of that State is pledged to his safety, if innocent, as its justice is pledged to his surrender if he is really a contraband.

follows that the capture in this case was left unfinished or abandoned. Whether the United States have a right to retain the chief public benefits of it, namely the custody of the captured person, will depend upon the preliminary question whether the leaving of the transaction unfinished was necessary, or whether it was unnecessary and therefore voluntary.

same separation that we as an independent State, should expect from Great Britain, or from any other friendly nation in a similar case. I have not been unmindful of, in examining this question, I have fallen far, in an argument for what seems to be the British side of it against my own country.

It appears from the letter of Commander Williams, dated "Royal Mail Contract Packet Trent, at Sea, November 9," that the Trent left Havana on the 7th inst., with Her Majesty's mails for England, having on board numerous passengers. Commander Williams states that shortly after noon on the 8th a steamer having the appearance of a man-of-war, but not showing colors, was observed ahead.

Earl Russell, resting upon the statement and the argument which I have thus recited, closes with saying that Her Majesty's Government trusts that when this matter shall have been brought under the consideration of the United States it will, of its own accord, offer to the British Government such redress as alone could satisfy the British nation, namely, the liberation of the prisoners taken from the Trent, and their delivery to your Lordship, in order that they may again be placed under British protection, and a suitable apology for the aggression which has been committed.

at the same time it is not to be denied that it may sometimes happen that the judicial remedy will become impossible, as by the shipwreck of the prize vessel, or other circumstances which excuse the captor from sending or making prize of the vessel. In such a case the captor is bound to send her to a port of refuge, and there to proceed with her whole cargo on her voyage.

the law of nations, and the proper place for its enforcement, is not the proper place for its enforcement. It is not the proper place for its enforcement. It is not the proper place for its enforcement. It is not the proper place for its enforcement.

nevertheless, the question now is, not whether Capt. Wilkes is justified in his government in what he did, but what is the present effect of the capture of the Trent, if, in fact, it is not the release of the Trent, if, in fact, it is not the release of the Trent.

It is of the very nature of a gift or a charity that the giver cannot, after the exercise of his benevolence is past, recall or modify its benefits. We are thus brought directly to the question whether we are entitled to regard the release of the Trent as involuntary, or whether it was voluntary.

MR. SEWARD TO LORD LYONS. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 26, 1861. The Right Honorable Lord Lyons, Sec., &c., &c. My Lord—Earl Russell's despatch of November 30th, a copy of which you have left with me at my request, is of the following effect: That a letter of Commander Williams, dated Royal Mail Contract Packet Trent, at sea, November 9th, states that that vessel left Havana on the 7th of the month, with Her Majesty's mails for England, having on board numerous passengers.

It has been settled by correspondence that the United States and Great Britain mutually recognized as applicable to this local strife these articles of the declaration by the Congress of Paris in 1846, namely, that the neutral or friendly flag should cover enemy's goods not contraband of war, and that neutral goods not contraband of war are not liable to capture upon an enemy's flag.

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